

Table 72 (page 1 of 2). Health care visits to doctor's offices, emergency departments, and home visits within the past 12 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1997–99

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Number of health care visits ¹											
	None			1–3 visits			4–9 visits			10 or more visits		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Percent distribution											
All persons ^{2,3}	16.5	16.0	17.5	46.2	46.8	45.8	23.6	23.8	23.3	13.7	13.5	13.4
Age												
Under 18 years	11.8	11.7	12.4	54.1	54.5	54.4	25.2	25.6	25.0	8.9	8.2	8.2
Under 6 years	5.0	4.9	5.9	44.9	46.7	45.9	37.0	36.5	36.8	13.0	11.8	11.3
6–17 years	15.3	15.0	15.5	58.7	58.4	58.5	19.3	20.2	19.4	6.8	6.3	6.7
18–44 years	21.7	21.6	24.2	46.7	47.7	45.8	19.0	18.6	17.8	12.6	12.2	12.3
18–24 years	22.0	22.6	24.8	46.8	47.7	46.1	20.0	18.4	17.8	11.2	11.2	11.4
25–44 years	21.6	21.3	24.0	46.7	47.6	45.7	18.7	18.6	17.8	13.0	12.5	12.6
45–64 years	16.9	15.9	16.9	42.9	43.6	42.4	24.7	24.3	25.0	15.5	16.2	15.7
45–54 years	17.9	17.2	18.4	43.9	44.9	43.2	23.4	22.5	22.8	14.8	15.4	15.7
55–64 years	15.3	13.8	14.7	41.3	41.6	41.1	26.7	27.1	28.4	16.7	17.5	15.8
65 years and over	8.9	7.3	7.9	34.7	34.0	34.3	32.5	35.3	34.1	23.8	23.4	23.7
65–74 years	9.8	8.4	8.6	36.9	36.5	36.9	31.6	34.3	33.2	21.6	20.8	21.3
75 years and over	7.7	6.0	7.2	31.8	30.8	31.1	33.8	36.5	35.1	26.6	26.7	26.6
Sex ³												
Male	21.3	20.7	23.1	47.1	47.3	45.5	20.6	21.2	20.6	11.0	10.8	10.8
Female	11.8	11.3	12.0	45.4	46.4	46.1	26.5	26.3	25.9	16.3	16.0	15.9
Race ^{3,4}												
White	16.0	15.5	16.9	46.1	46.8	45.7	23.9	24.1	23.8	14.0	13.7	13.6
Black	16.8	16.4	18.4	46.1	46.5	46.1	23.2	23.3	22.1	13.9	13.8	13.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	17.1	20.0	20.7	38.0	39.0	35.6	24.2	25.1	25.6	20.7	15.9	18.1
Asian or Pacific Islander	22.8	20.9	22.7	49.1	48.3	47.2	19.7	21.3	19.8	8.3	9.4	10.3
Race and Hispanic origin ³												
White, non-Hispanic	14.7	14.3	15.5	46.6	47.1	45.9	24.4	24.6	24.5	14.3	14.0	14.1
Black, non-Hispanic	16.9	16.5	18.3	46.1	46.5	46.1	23.1	23.2	22.1	13.8	13.8	13.5
Hispanic ⁴	24.9	24.0	26.2	42.3	44.9	44.3	20.3	19.7	19.2	12.5	11.5	10.3
Mexican ⁴	28.9	28.5	30.2	40.8	41.9	43.0	18.5	18.6	18.2	11.8	11.0	8.7
Respondent-assessed health status ³												
Fair or poor	7.8	9.7	9.8	23.3	23.4	25.9	29.0	25.3	24.3	39.9	41.6	40.1
Good to excellent	17.2	16.6	18.1	48.4	49.0	47.7	23.3	23.7	23.2	11.1	10.8	11.0
Poverty status ^{3,5}												
Poor	20.3	20.9	21.5	37.1	37.8	39.2	22.7	22.8	21.3	19.9	18.5	18.1
Near poor	19.9	20.0	22.2	42.8	41.4	41.5	21.8	22.4	21.6	15.5	16.2	14.7
Nonpoor	14.0	13.4	14.9	48.0	48.6	47.0	25.0	25.3	25.0	13.0	12.7	13.1
Race and Hispanic origin and poverty status ^{3,5}												
White, non-Hispanic:												
Poor	16.3	17.0	17.0	37.7	38.3	38.9	24.0	24.0	23.3	22.1	20.7	20.7
Near poor	17.1	17.1	19.8	43.7	41.6	40.8	22.3	23.2	23.3	17.0	18.0	16.2
Nonpoor	13.2	12.8	14.0	47.6	48.1	46.8	25.7	25.7	25.5	13.4	13.4	13.7
Black, non-Hispanic:												
Poor	17.8	18.0	18.2	37.4	37.9	40.2	23.3	25.1	22.8	21.5	19.1	18.8
Near poor	18.9	20.7	19.8	43.0	41.6	43.7	23.4	22.4	20.7	14.7	15.2	15.8
Nonpoor	15.6	13.9	16.3	50.5	51.0	47.8	23.3	24.6	24.1	10.6	10.5	11.8
Hispanic: ⁴												
Poor	30.6	30.8	31.2	33.8	36.6	38.2	20.0	17.5	18.7	15.6	15.1	11.8
Near poor	29.1	26.2	30.2	39.0	42.4	42.1	20.9	20.4	17.5	11.0	11.0	10.1
Nonpoor	18.7	17.1	21.0	48.6	51.4	46.8	20.3	22.0	21.9	12.3	9.5	10.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 72 (page 2 of 2). Health care visits to doctor's offices, emergency departments, and home visits within the past 12 months, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1997–99

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Number of health care visits ¹											
	None			1–3 visits			4–9 visits			10 or more visits		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Health insurance status ^{6,7}	Percent distribution											
Under 65 years of age:												
Insured	14.3	14.0	15.4	49.0	49.8	48.6	23.6	23.3	23.2	13.1	12.8	12.7
Private	14.8	14.3	15.9	50.8	51.8	50.1	23.0	22.9	22.9	11.4	11.0	11.1
Medicaid	9.7	9.9	10.5	35.0	33.9	35.4	27.1	26.9	26.1	28.2	29.2	28.0
Uninsured	33.7	34.6	37.3	42.8	42.3	41.6	15.3	15.3	13.2	8.2	7.7	7.9
65 years of age and over:												
Private	7.4	5.7	6.5	36.0	35.4	34.8	33.7	36.4	35.0	22.9	22.5	23.7
Medicaid	10.2	6.5	7.0	21.0	23.6	23.9	28.1	30.6	32.7	40.7	39.4	36.4
Medicare only	13.0	11.8	10.7	35.0	32.7	35.3	31.0	33.9	32.8	21.1	21.6	21.1
Poverty status and health insurance status ^{5,6}												
Under 65 years of age:												
Poor:												
Insured	13.7	14.5	14.6	38.8	40.1	41.4	24.5	24.5	23.2	22.9	20.9	20.7
Uninsured	36.7	36.8	39.8	38.8	37.8	39.3	14.9	15.7	12.6	9.5	9.7	8.3
Near poor:												
Insured	15.6	15.2	17.0	45.5	44.1	44.9	22.3	22.8	22.6	16.6	17.9	15.5
Uninsured	34.5	35.8	38.0	41.8	41.1	40.2	15.6	15.6	13.4	8.1	7.5	8.4
Nonpoor:												
Insured	13.4	13.3	14.7	50.3	50.9	49.1	24.2	24.0	24.2	12.1	11.8	12.0
Uninsured	29.1	29.4	32.9	45.4	46.4	43.7	17.0	16.8	14.6	8.4	7.3	8.8
Geographic region ³												
Northeast	13.2	12.1	12.8	45.9	47.8	46.4	26.0	25.4	25.6	14.9	14.7	15.2
Midwest	15.9	15.6	16.2	47.7	46.9	46.7	22.8	24.2	23.8	13.6	13.4	13.3
South	17.2	17.0	18.9	46.1	46.7	45.5	23.3	23.1	22.5	13.5	13.2	13.2
West	19.1	18.3	20.9	44.8	46.0	44.8	22.8	22.8	21.9	13.3	12.9	12.4
Location of residence ³												
Within MSA ⁸	16.2	15.7	17.4	46.4	46.9	45.9	23.7	23.9	23.4	13.7	13.4	13.2
Outside MSA ⁸	17.3	16.8	17.7	45.4	46.2	45.1	23.3	23.4	22.9	13.9	13.7	14.4

¹This table presents a summary measure of ambulatory and home health care visits during a 12-month period based on the following questions: "During the past 12 months, how many times have you gone to a hospital emergency room about your own health?"; "During the past 12 months, did you receive care at home from a nurse or other health care professional? What was the total number of home visits received?"; "During the past 12 months, how many times have you seen a doctor or other health care professional about your own health at a doctor's office, a clinic, or some other place? Do not include times you were hospitalized overnight, visits to hospital emergency rooms, home visits, or telephone calls." For each question respondents were shown a flashcard with response categories of: 0, 1, 2–3, 4–9, 10–12, or 13 or more visits. For this tabulation responses of 2–3 were recoded to 2 and responses of 4–9 were recoded to 6. The summary measure was constructed by adding recoded responses for these questions and categorizing the sum as: none, 1–3, 4–9, or 10 or more health care visits in the past 12 months. See Appendix II, Health care contact, Emergency department visit, Home visit.

²Includes all other races not shown separately, unknown poverty status, and unknown health insurance status.

³Estimates are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard using six age groups: Under 18 years, 18–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

⁴The race groups white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Poverty status is based on family income, family size, number of children in the family, and for families with two or fewer adults the age of the adults in the family using Bureau of the Census poverty thresholds. Poor persons are defined as below the poverty threshold. Near poor persons have incomes of 100 percent to less than 200 percent of poverty threshold. Nonpoor persons have incomes of 200 percent or greater than the poverty threshold. See Appendix II, Family income, Poverty level. Poverty status was unknown for 20 percent of persons in the sample in 1997, 25 percent in 1998, and 28 percent in 1999.

⁶Estimates for persons under 65 years of age are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard using four age groups: Under 18 years, 18–44 years, 45–54 years, and 55–64 years of age. Estimates for persons 65 years of age and over are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard using two age groups: 65–74 years and 75 years and over. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

⁷Health insurance categories are mutually exclusive. Persons who reported both Medicaid and private coverage are classified as having Medicaid coverage. Starting in 1997 Medicaid includes state-sponsored health plans and Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). See Appendix II, Health insurance coverage.

⁸MSA is metropolitan statistical area.

NOTES: Some numbers for 1998 were revised and differ from the previous edition of *Health, United States*.

In 1997 the National Health Interview Survey questionnaire was redesigned. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey. Data presented in this table are not comparable with data on physician contacts presented in *Health, United States*, 1999 and earlier editions.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Health Interview Survey, family core and sample adult questionnaires.